

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday 17th March 2019

George Dobbs G3RJV Silent Key

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of one of the truly great radio amateurs last Monday. Rev. George Dobbs G3RJV was founder of the GQRP Club in 1974 and was the driving force behind it ever since. He had recently been suffering from Alzheimer's and was in residential care. SPRAT is the quarterly magazine of the GQRP Club and George as editor was also one of its regular contributors over the years. He also wrote many QRP books and contributed to amateur periodicals over the years as well as organising the annual G-QRP Conference.

George was no stranger to Ireland as he was a Celtic scholar. He was the main speaker at the Celticon QRP Conference held at the Marino Institute of Education in 2000 and he also gave a QRP presentation at the Lough Erne Radio Rally in 2010. He was an enthusiastic, passionate and inspirational speaker. QRP operating and constructing owes a great debt of gratitude to George for putting it where it is today. He will be sadly missed.

We express our sympathy to his wife Jo and family. A big 72 and 73 George. You leave a great QRP legacy as you join another great QRP author Doug DeMaw W1FB. Rest in Peace.

Evening Counties Contest

The IRTS 80 metres Evening Counties Contest takes place at 20:00 on Tuesday next, 19th March. It is a one-hour contest, with SSB-Only and mixed-mode SSB/CW sections, double points for CW QSOs in the mixed-mode section. There is also an SWL section. See www.irts.ie/contests for permitted frequencies and other rules; note that the power limit for this contest is 100 watts PEP. For EI and GI stations, multipliers are the Irish counties plus overseas DXCC entities worked, while for overseas stations multipliers are the EI and GI counties.

Amateur Station Licence Exam

The next Amateur Station Licence Exam will be held on Thursday 9th May in the ComReg Offices in Dublin. Quite a few applications for this exam have already been received. As places are limited and are allocated on a first come first served basis,

those intending to sit the exam should apply soon. Full details, including entry procedure, exam fee and how to pay the fee online are available at www.irts.ie/exam

Please note that it is necessary to download the application form from the web page, forward the completed form and pay the appropriate fee so as to secure a place for the exam. The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Thursday 25th April.

Candidates for this exam and those helping them to prepare for it should look at www.irts.ie/study which has links to the Course Guide and other useful study material.

Tipperary Amateur Radio Group

Reminder: The next meeting of the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group will take place in The Park Hotel, Clonmel on Tuesday 19th March at 8.30pm. New members or anyone interested in amateur radio are very welcome.

For anyone who wishes to find out more about the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group and its activities you can attend any of their meetings. You can also check out their website www.ei7trg.ie or contact club PRO Ronan EI4KN at QTHR for further information.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

A Radio Foxhunt will be held by the club on Monday the 18th of March 2019 in Kilbarry Nature Park, Waterford at 12pm sharp. Kilbarry Nature Park is located just outside the city on the Tramore Road just past the Waterford Regional Sports Centre Eircode X91 X2XY. This is a fun event open to everyone young and old, licensed or SWL. Please note this event will be dependable upon weather conditions. For more info contact any SEARG committee member.

For anyone who wishes to find out more about the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group and their activities you can drop them an email to “info /at/ searg /dot/ ie” or please feel free to attend any of their meetings. You can check out their website www.searg.ie, join them on Facebook and follow them on Twitter.

International Marconi Day 2019

IMD will take place this year on 27th of April when amateur radio stations will operate from various locations around the world with historical connections to

Marconi. EI0MAR will be QRV as an award station once again this year from the Hurdy Gurdy Museum of Vintage Radio in Howth. This is a twenty-four hour event and EI0MAR will be QRV from about 0700 Zulu that day. The Marconi Company conducted wireless telegraphy tests at the Martello Tower in 1905.

If you would like to come along that day as a visitor or operator you will be most welcome. The event is organised by the Cornish Radio Amateur Radio Club and awards are made for contacting the registered stations. You can find out more information about EI0MAR and International Marconi Day on Facebook. Just search under EI0MAR and International Marconi Day or by emailing “ei0mar /at/ eircom /dot/ net”.

Limerick Radio Club

LRC wishes to thank all those who supported the LRC Rally on Sunday 10th March. Despite the WX forecast and weekend sports events, attendance was very satisfying. Many thanks to club members who put a lot of effort into preparing for the event.

The club also wishes to thank the traders and especially Long Communications who have supported the event over many years.

IRTS AGM 2019

Reminder: The Shannon Basin Radio Club are hosting the 2019 IRTS Dinner and AGM with a radio and electronic fair on the weekend of the 13th and 14th April in the Hodson Bay Hotel Athlone.

Talks and demos will take place on the Saturday afternoon with the annual dinner taking place on Saturday night. The radio and electronics fair will take place on the Sunday 14th April.

Tickets are available now. For further details and contact information please see www.shannonbasinradioclub.com or www.irts.ie

AGM CW Assessment

Dave EI4BZ will be conducting CW assessment at the IRTS AGM in Athlone on April 14th.

Booking for these tests is essential and intending candidates should contact Dave

EI4BZ on 087-6290574 or by email “davebeag /at/ gmail /dot/ com”. Full details of the Morse test are available on the IRTS web site under licensing at www.irts.ie

DX News

The EI DX Group DXpedition will be QRV until 26th March using the callsign 5V7EI from Togo in West Africa. They will appreciate hearing from any EI stations battling through the pileups!!!! QSLs go via M0OXO OQRS.

Masa JA0RQV is signing A35JP from Tonga until 27th March. He operates CW, SSB and FT8. He is there on a business trip and will get on the air in his spare time. QSL via Club Log OQRS.

Hartwig DL7BC will be in French Guiana from 21st March – 2nd April using his TO2BC callsign. The activity will be mainly holiday-style but he hopes to have an entry in the CQWW WPX Contest during the weekend 30/31 March. QSL via his home call.

Dick G3RWL is making another visit to Barbados from 13th March – 17th April. Look for him as 8P6DR on CW and RTTY. QSLs are via Club Log OQRS.

Items for inclusion in next week's Radio News can be submitted via e-mail to “newsteam /at/ irts / dot / ie” for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. Urgent news items for the radio news may be telephoned to the radio news editor, Mark EI6HPB on 086 355 2370.

Please note that items for the radio news should reach the editor no later than midday on Thursday in order to be guaranteed inclusion in the following Sunday's bulletin.

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